

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 CU-04 AID-20 IGA-02 NIC-01 SS-20 L-03 IO-14

DRC-01 /138 W

----- 085033

R 161847Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2804

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB

SUBJECT: CTF AND RELATIONS WITH ORIT, CTCA, AND AIFLD

1. ARTURO MORALES CUBAS, PRINCIPAL LEADER OF
FEDERATED WORKERS' CENTRAL (CTF), TOLD EMBASSY
OFFICERS ON APRIL 4 THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD
SOON ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY THAT IT WILL NO LONGER
COOPERATE WITH AIFLD ACTIVITIES IN GUATEMALA
AND THAT IT WILL SOON WITHDRAW FROM CENTRAL AMERICAN
WORKERS' CONFEDERATION (CTCA). MORALES BASED HIS
BREAK WITH AIFLD ON WHAT HE ALLEGED AS INEFFECTIVENESS
OF INSTITUTE TRAINING PROGRAMS. HE CLAIMED THAT
PROGRAMS ARE NOT PRODUCTIVE BECAUSE THEY MUST BE
CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH GOG, WHICH, HE SAID,
CONSISTENLY FOLLOWS ANTI-UNION POLICY. HE ADVISED
US THAT CTF WILL ANNOUNCE THIS MOVE AROUND MAY 1 AND
WILL GIVE IT PUBLICITY THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA.

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RE BREAK WITH CTCA, MORALES ASSERTED THAT HE HAS

NEVER REGARDED AIFLD-SUPPORTED REGIONAL CONFEDERATION
AS EFFECTIVE AND BELIEVED TIME HAD COME TO SEVER RELATIONS.

2. MORALES HAS LONG DESIRED AN AIFLD PROGRAM IN GUATEMALA
WHICH GIVES HIM FREE REIN IN THE SPENDING OF INSTITUTE
TRAINING FUNDS FOR THE GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CTF.
WE HAVE RESISTED HIS ATTEMPTS TO GET SUCH A PROGRAM
SINCE THIS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO GOG. MORALES
MAY NOW BELIEVE THAT IT IS BETTER TO DO WITHOUT ANY
PROGRAM AT ALL. THE REASONS FOR THIS ACTION, HOWEVER,
ARE MORE COMPLEX. A PRINCIPAL REASON FOR BOTH ACTIONS
IS CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP IN ORIT FROM ARTURO JAUREGUI,
WITH WHOM MORALES HAD CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, TO
JULIO ETCHEVERRY. MORALES BELIEVES THAT ETCHEVERRY
WILL BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO HIS ENEMIES, BOTH IN
INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CIRCLES AND IN GUATEMALA.
MORALES' RIVAL AND ARCH-ENEMY, LETICIA NAJARRO, IS ALREADY
AFTER ORIT AFFILIATION IN PLACE OF CTF (SEE A-13)
AND MORALES PROBABLY THINKS SHE WILL GET IT. IN
TURN, MORALES PROBABLY FEARS THAT NAJARRO MAY NOW SUCCEED
IN CONVINCING AIFLD TO CHANNEL BULK OF TRAINING RESOURCES
IN AIFLD/G AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS TO HER ORGANIZATION
(CALLED CONSIGUA). MORALES PROBABLY HOPES TO MAKE
PUBLICITY SPLASH FOR HIMSELF WHILE TAINTING ANY
POTENTIAL AIFLD/NAJARRO COOPERATION AS GOG-INSPIRED.
IN ADDITION, MORALES PROBABLY ALSO VIEWS BREAK WITH
AIFLD AS BENEFITING HIS GROWING ROLE AS LEADER OF
BULK OF GUATEMALAN TRADE UNIONISM BY TAKING POINTS WITH
UNIONS WHICH HAVE NEVER HELD AIFLD IN HIGH REGARD.

3. CTF DEPARTURE FROM CTCA WILL NOT BE SERIOUS
BLOW TO THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION SINCE IT HAS DEPENDED
ON AIFLD FUNDING FOR ITS SURVIVAL AND NOT THE SUPPORT
OF THE REGION'S TRADE UNIONS. IT WILL, HOWEVER, OPEN
DOOR TO AFFILIATION OF NAJARRO'S CONSIGUA, WHICH IS BARELY
MORE THAN A CREATURE OF GOG, HAS LITTLE TRADE UNION
STRENGTH, AND IS HELD IN VERY LOW REGARD BY MOST
GUATEMALAN TRADE UNIONISTS. CONSIGUA'S ACCESSION TO
CTCA, IF IT OCCURS, WILL NOT ADD TO BUT RATHER WILL
DETRACT FROM ORGANIZATION.
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